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82nd plenary meeting
Friday, 11 Apr. 2003, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/57/705/Add.9)

The President: Before proceeding to the items on the agenda, I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/57/705/Add.9, by which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communications contained in documents A/57/705 and Addenda 1 to 8, Venezuela has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in document A/57/705/Add.9?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Fifth report of the General Committee (A/57/250/Add.4)

The President: In its report, the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item, entitled "Global road safety crisis", should be included in the agenda of the current session.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include in the agenda of the current session that additional item?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Committee further decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to consider that item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Global road safety crisis" becomes agenda item 169.

Agenda item 27

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Letter dated 29 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly transmitting the report on the Kimberley Process (A/57/489)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

03-31976 (E)

Draft resolution (A/57/L.76)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat, who will inform members of some technical corrections to be made to draft resolution A/57/L.76.

Mr. Chen Jian (Under Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to inform members of the following correction to draft resolution A/57/L.76.

In the ninth preambular paragraph, the year of the adoption of resolution 56/263 should read 2002.

That correction will be reflected in the final version of the draft resolution. The Secretariat would like to offer its sincere apologies for any inconvenience the error may have caused, and promises to look into it and to take all necessary measures to avoid any recurrence.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce draft resolution A/57/L.76.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): Allow me, at the outset, to express my country's gratitude to you, Mr. President, for scheduling this plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider agenda item 27, entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

The provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/263, of 13 March 2002, mandated this body to remain seized of the issue of the curtailment of conflict diamonds. Those diamonds fuel strife, violence and disasters because the proceeds of their sales are used to buy weapons. The serious humanitarian consequences of those criminal acts are well known.

Efforts to curtail conflict diamonds became an international responsibility when the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 55/56 in 2001. As was the case with the texts of that year and of 2002, we hope that the General Assembly will today adopt by acclamation the draft resolution before us. Last year the General Assembly welcomed the detailed proposals for an international certification scheme for rough diamonds that was developed in the Kimberley Process. The Assembly also urged the finalization of that scheme, as well as its subsequent implementation.

I am pleased to report that the Kimberley Process finalized the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme at a meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, in March 2002. It launched the Scheme at a ministerial meeting held at Interlaken, Switzerland, in November 2002. The implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme began on 1 January 2003. To date there are 55 participants. Since the last session of the General Assembly, the Kimberley Process has issued a report on the progress made. That report is contained in the annex to document A/57/489, of 21 February 2003.

However, it is important to acknowledge that the road we have taken to where we are this morning has not been an easy one. Many countries have had to take critical decisions in support of this Process, despite the reservations they may have had. The thing that unites us is that this draft resolution is a contribution to peace and security in countries where people have lost their lives because of conflict diamonds. The implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme has been a gradual process. The next plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process will be held in Johannesburg from 28 to 30 April 2003, with a view to addressing implementation issues, among other things.

The draft resolution contained in document A/56/L.76 is procedural in nature. It does not contain provisions that have financial implications. The draft resolution strongly supports the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as a necessary measure to combat the devastating role of conflict diamonds in fuelling conflicts, in order to promote international peace and security. It recognizes that the proposed international certification scheme will help ensure effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds. In that regard, we are pleased to note that the Security Council adopted its resolution 1459 (2003), strongly supporting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. Draft resolution A/57/L.76 also recognizes the need to ensure that the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme are consistent with international trade rules. It stresses the importance of the widest possible participation and urges all Member States to become active participants.

The Kimberley Process complements the efforts to create and maintain peace and security. For that reason, my delegation would like to encourage the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

In closing, I have the honour to announce that the following countries have joined the list of sponsors of

draft resolution A/57/L.76: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of Egypt is pleased to participate in this meeting on the Kimberley Process and Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for the international trade in diamonds on the basis of its appreciation of the efforts that have been made over the past two years to review an important issue that has a direct impact on international peace and security: the role of diamonds in fuelling armed conflicts.

This problem has long posed a threat to peace, stability and development opportunities in Africa. The illicit trade in diamonds is a key element in the bloody conflicts that have plagued Africa, claiming thousands of innocent African victims and causing the total devastation of the economic and social structures of many States. This illicit trade has promoted the proliferation of conflicts beyond the borders of individual States to hatefully engulf entire subregions. In addition, countries, peoples and societies are being deprived of their wealth and resources, which are transformed by an exploitative network of political and economic interests into a medium of mass destruction.

In this context, we note that the huge human, economic, social and political costs of what have been called "blood diamonds" have been very high. These costs have been borne by the international community, which must assume its responsibilities for putting an end to this vicious circle of exploitation, destruction and danger for the peoples of Africa.

In our view, the Kimberley Process represents an important system for organized and coordinated international action under United Nations auspices. The delegation of Egypt wishes to stress a number of important points on which the international community should base its action in addressing international conflicts, in particular those in Africa.

First, the Kimberley Process reflects the need to tackle the very roots of conflict in their various manifestations, without confining ourselves solely to assessing the political, military or security aspects. We must take into account the facts that every conflict has unique characteristics and dimensions and that the international community's success in addressing and resolving conflicts must be based essentially on an early evaluation and analysis of their roots and causes, before they claim victims and destroy wealth and resources.

Secondly, the Kimberley Process stresses the need for the political will of all parties concerned throughout the world. Without such will at the highest political level in the countries involved, the commitment to achieving results — as we may note in the documents before us — cannot be summoned and we would not be here today to celebrate this important step in the world's collective progress in addressing one of the major causes of conflict in Africa.

Thirdly, the Process is a good example of the method and spirit of collaboration between the United Nations and its Member States, on the one hand, and the private sector, civil society and regional and international organizations, on the other.

Fourthly, the Kimberley Process should be welcomed as a model of complementarity in action within the United Nations system in addressing a question that has a direct impact on international peace and security. Coordination between the Security Council and the General Assembly through this approach can set an example to be followed and promoted by all in endeavours undertaken by the United Nations system effectively and justly to address issues with technical, political, economic and humanitarian aspects and questions that impact international peace and security.

Fifthly, the Process reflects the concept of State leadership in achieving, under United Nations auspices, the success of a mission that faced well-known political and technical difficulties in registering tangible and preliminary accomplishments and results. The Egyptian delegation wishes to commend the efforts of the South African Government through its chairmanship of the Process and its capacity to achieve a measure of harmony between the difficult dual tasks of determining the goals and choosing the best means to achieve them.

In conclusion, the delegation of Egypt wishes to reiterate that the results of the Kimberley Process

represent a major success for all who have participated in it. Nevertheless, we must affirm that the great challenge still before the international community is ensuring the commitment and respect by all parties for the rules and criteria established by the Process, including periodic reassessments and, if need be, updating of the Certification Scheme by the United Nations.

The United Nations efforts to address African conflicts through the Kimberley Process are an important step towards taking a much broader and more profound approach to this problem. Our support today for the results of this Process represents support for United Nations action to prevent, avoid and contain international conflicts in general and to demonstrate that the United Nations system is capable of addressing all their aspects and dimensions, even the most complex.

Ms. Kalay-Kleitman (Israel): Allow me at the outset to commend South Africa for its inspiring leadership and commitment to the success of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and for its willingness to continue to serve as Chair through the first year of the Process' implementation.

Israel would also like to take this opportunity to commend the international community, the States members of the Kimberley Process, the General Assembly, the Security Council, bodies of civil society and non-governmental organizations for their contributions to the extensive and wide-ranging progress that has been made in combating the scourge of conflict diamonds since the inception of the Kimberley Process in 2000.

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds is a matter of serious international concern that can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons, Israel shares the view of Member States that there is a clear moral and commercial imperative to halt this phenomenon.

It should be noted that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources and are not blood diamonds. At its peak in 1999, the trade in conflict diamonds accounted for less than 4 per cent of the world's annual rough-diamond production. However, that is no reason for complacency and we must remain fully committed to introducing measures and procedures that will protect legitimate channels of distribution from any potential conflict-diamond infiltration. Even one diamond traded in this way is one diamond too many.

Israel recognizes that this is a significant humanitarian issue. The devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts should be of grave concern to the international community. In this spirit, we believe that it is imperative that we continue to take decisive and urgent action to curb the role of the rough-diamond trade in inflaming conflict, thereby preventing future losses to and the suffering of innocent civilian populations in Africa.

Mr. Nguyen Thanh Chau (Viet Nam), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Israel has been wholly committed to the Kimberley Process since its inception, having participated in all meetings — from London through Interlaken this past November — and has worked within the framework of the Process to advance a system of documentation that would be both effective, by limiting the role of rough diamonds in inflaming and financing conflicts, and pragmatic by alleviating an undue burden on the legitimate diamond trade.

Since the beginning of this year, based on conclusions of the Kimberley Process, Israel has proceeded to implement a system of documenting and monitoring rough-diamond traffic to and from Israel. Similarly, we have barred trade in rough diamonds with countries that are not participants in the Process.

In addition to the regulations set forth by the Kimberley Process, the Israeli Diamond Association has also adopted the recommendations of the World Diamond Council, the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association to implement a system of warranties for diamonds. In this manner, all buyers and sellers of both rough and polished diamonds, including jewellery containing diamonds, must make the following affirmative statement on all invoices:

> "The diamonds herein invoiced have been purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations resolutions."

This system will dually complement and strengthen the credibility of the Kimberley Process agreement and provide the means by which consumers might more effectively be assured of the origin of their diamonds and verify that they are indeed conflict-free.

Israel also supports a World Trade Organization (WTO) waiver relating to the establishment of a certification process preventing trade in conflict diamonds. This is in recognition of the interests of many WTO members in the legitimate trade of rough diamonds and the importance of managing the Kimberley Process in accordance with WTO regulations.

Israel has also supported the activities of the United Nations on this matter, noting our co-sponsorship of General Assembly resolutions 55/56 in December 2000 and 56/263 in March 2002.

Israel reaffirms its support today. We will co-sponsor the current draft resolution on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict, as we have done in the past. In this context, Israel would like to take this opportunity to call on all States to present a united front in the campaign to stop the trade in conflict diamonds, to join the Kimberley Process and to support the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution before us today. Israel remains determined to further our contribution to the Kimberley Process and we look forward to attending the upcoming annual meeting, which will be held this month in Johannesburg.

Mr. Dube (Botswana): Botswana, as a co-convener of the Kimberley Process, is delighted that the General Assembly is meeting once again to consider the agenda item "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict" and, more importantly, to consider the draft resolution before us. Members will recall that the General Assembly debated this issue on 13 March 2002 and adopted resolution 56/263, which mandated participants in the Kimberley Process to continue negotiations to break the link between the illicit trade in rough diamonds and armed conflict in some African countries. We are meeting today, hopefully, to put our stamp of approval on the momentous task that has been achieved by the Kimberley Process in reaching agreement on an international Certification Scheme for trade in rough diamonds.

The diamond industry has had a tarnished image that emerged from African conflicts financed mostly through the illicit trade in diamonds by rebel groups and warlords. In such conflicts, it was inevitable that we would witness not only the plunder of natural resources, with little or nothing accruing to the national treasuries, but also gross violations of human rights. The horrific scenes that were aired on our television screens of men, women and children hacked to death or with their limbs amputated by drug-crazed rebels rightly spurred human rights groups and other activists to campaign against the diamond trade. The campaign, however, also targeted innocent legitimate producers, such as my country, Namibia and South Africa, which account for more than 70 per cent of world diamond production. As the world's largest producer of diamonds by value and the most dependent economy on trade in rough diamonds, Botswana would have suffered immeasurably if a consumer boycott had succeeded. The diamond industry contributes directly one third of our gross domestic product, more than half of public revenues, and 80 per cent of our export earnings. The economies of other southern African countries would also have suffered.

The convening of the Kimberley process was therefore a response by the three major producers of southern Africa to engage the international community and civil society in the first serious attempt to ban conflict diamonds from the marketplace. There were also noble efforts by other countries to introduce national legislation to ban the import of what came to be known as "blood diamonds". But it was always clear to us from the beginning that control of this trade could succeed only if there was an internationally coordinated effort.

It is truly remarkable that negotiators in the Kimberley process, who started off with widely different interests and solutions to the problem, finally reached consensus on an international certification scheme. The Interlaken Declaration, issued by ministers at their meeting in Switzerland last November, is the outcome of the long and hard negotiations that took place over two years.

We wish to pay tribute to all producer and consumer countries, to the diamond industry and to the non-governmental organizations that worked so hard to reach this agreement. We also pay tribute to the Republic of South Africa, which so selflessly chaired the Kimberley process negotiations and patiently guided us to their mutual conclusion.

The campaign to ban the trade in conflict diamonds will succeed only through the effective implementation of the international certification scheme. This, to us, is a challenge for the United Nations. The various resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly on this matter must be implemented fully to back up the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into full effect on 1 January 2003. Governments of participating States will to pass the necessary legislation to incorporate the provisions of the certification scheme into their trade regulations.

In this respect, it is worth noting that the original conveners — Botswana, Namibia and South Africa — already had legislation in place and had the Kimberley Process certificates printed by 1 January of this year. We are informed that almost all other producer States are in the process of issuing Kimberley Process certificates. Consumer countries, notably the European Community, Canada, Australia and Japan, are also in compliance. More significantly, this week, on 9 April, the House of Representatives in Washington passed the "Clean Diamonds Trade Act", which has been in the works for many months. It is hoped that the Senate will pass a similar bill fairly soon. This legislation fully backs the Kimberley Process and has provisions for the implementation of the certification scheme in the United States.

The effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will also require participants to have full capacity and resources. The issuing of Kimberley Process certificates for both exports and imports will have no meaning if the issuing State does not have the necessary administrative machinery, monitoring and verification controls at the mines, nor the trained personnel. A number of countries, especially those that are emerging from conflict, will require technical and financial assistance to put into place the necessary mechanisms that will enable them to fulfil the requirements of the certification scheme. In this respect, we believe that the United Nations agencies can provide valuable assistance.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my country's full support for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. We wish to commend to the Assembly the report of the Chairman of the Kimberley Process. We urge Member States to adopt the draft resolution before us by acclamation.

Mr. Laggner (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): The illegal trade in rough diamonds which are mined in conflict areas is fuelling and prolonging wars. Over the past decade, such trade has contributed to the deaths of tens of thousands of people, to the massive uprooting of peoples and to the destruction of entire regions. Conflict diamonds have a major impact on human security, which the international community must address. Conflict diamonds also pose a threat to the legal diamond industry, because, even if they make up only a small proportion of the total volume of diamond transactions, they can have an impact on the overall image of the diamond trade.

The first meeting to discuss the trade in conflict diamonds took place in May 2000 in Kimberley, on the initiative of African diamond-producing countries. Over the past two and a half years, a tremendous amount has been achieved. The outcome of these efforts was the declaration adopted in Interlaken, Switzerland, on 5 November 2002, which led to the launching of an international system to certify the origin of rough diamonds. It was a decisive step in the struggle against the scourge represented by the trade in conflict diamonds. Switzerland welcomes the fact that the development and entry into force of this certification scheme took place in a very short period of time, compared with the process of elaborating other international instruments.

Switzerland congratulates all the countries involved in the Kimberley Process, the diamond industry and civil society, who worked together to produce this result. My country also thanks South Africa for chairing the Kimberley Process with such skill and conviction.

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is a response to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/56 and 56/263. It is also an instrument which will permit better implementation of sanctions decided by the Security Council. For a number of years, Switzerland has supported the development of targeted sanctions that more effectively aim at those actors that threaten international peace and security, while sparing, to as great a degree as possible, the civilian population and third countries. My country feels that this certification scheme concerning the origin of rough diamonds contributes to efforts now under way to refine and strengthen the sanctions mechanism.

The adoption of this certification scheme is, of course, not an end in itself. The same determination must be given now to achieving respect for the scheme and for its operation. We face several challenges: ensuring the greatest possible participation in the certification scheme by encouraging new countries to join it; ensuring that it is applied fully by all the actors concerned; and establishing appropriate and efficient control mechanisms.

Switzerland calls upon all countries that have until now remained outside the system to participate in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and to ensure that it gradually becomes universal.

As for the countries that are already taking part, Switzerland invites them to remain determined in their resolve to put an end to the trade in conflict diamonds and not to be misled by a false sense of security that could possibly arise from the launching of the Certification Scheme. There is still important work to do, and we must do it together.

Mr. Tesch (Australia): Australia, as the largest producer of rough diamonds by volume globally, welcomes the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds. We consider the Scheme an essential step towards curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, thereby reducing the ability of rebel movements to acquire the arms that have fuelled civil wars and conflicts in several African nations. We are steadfast in our determination to prevent the devastating impact of such conflicts on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts.

On 5 November last year, Australia joined with 34 other countries and the European Union in adopting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds in Interlaken, Switzerland. The full introduction of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in Australia on 1 January this year marks two years of collaborative effort by Australian Government agencies, the Australian rough diamond industry and civil society.

Australia welcomes the significant role played by industry groups and non-governmental organizations in the development of the Scheme and believes that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme successfully balances the need to restrict trade in conflict diamonds with the need to protect and further develop the present legitimate trade in rough diamonds.

Australia urges all Member States involved in the trade of rough diamonds to join the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme without delay. In that spirit, Australia is pleased to be a sponsor of the draft resolution before the General Assembly.

Mr. Ayari (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): My delegation wishes to contribute to the debate that brings us together today, which we feel is of particular importance. Our debate falls within the framework of the efforts of the international community to end the flow of rough diamonds that rebels and certain armed groups use to finance armed conflict and to overthrow legitimate Governments. The convening of this debate testifies to the determination of the United Nations to attack head on this scourge, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

In that context, I wish to recall and welcome the General Assembly's adoption of several resolutions concerning the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict. In those resolutions, the General Assembly has, inter alia, emphasized that it was necessary to break the link between the illicit trade of rough diamonds and armed conflict, while drawing attention to the fact that the legal trade of diamonds contributes to the prosperity and development of producing countries. The Assembly has also underlined the fact that a certain number of countries heavily depend on diamond mining for their socio-economic development. Moreover, the General Assembly has asked that a simple and functional international system for issuing certificates for rough diamonds be established.

We welcome the progress achieved in the framework of the Kimberley Process, set up at the initiative of Southern African countries, with the aim of cutting off the sources fuelling rebels with conflict diamonds, protecting the legitimate diamond industry and establishing an international certification scheme based on national certification systems and internationally agreed minimum standards.

We welcome the decision to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as of 1 January 2003. We are convinced that the Scheme will help the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions against the trade in conflict diamonds.

We underline that the Certification Scheme will be credible and will help to put an end to conflict diamonds only if we have the necessary political will and the active participation of all producing and importing countries, as well as of other parties, who are called upon to implement the system rigorously in order to effectively block trade in such diamonds.

The devastating consequences of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of countries have never been so harshly felt as in Africa, especially in Angola, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Conflict diamonds are a crucial factor in the prolongation of the conflicts in those countries and have had devastating effects on their economies, thus exacerbating the suffering of their peoples and preventing them from undertaking constructive work towards development in order to lift themselves out of poverty and destitution.

We believe that it is essential that the resources and intrinsic potential of the African continent, especially its mineral resources and diamonds, should be totally devoted to development, the strengthening of peace and stability and the prevention and settlement of conflict.

My delegation will welcome the adoption of draft resolution A57/L.76 on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict, aimed at breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to the prevention and settlement of conflicts. My delegation also wishes to express its satisfaction at seeing the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict" inscribed on the provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Allow me to commend the Republic of South Africa, in its capacity as Chair of the Kimberley Process, for its wise guidance of the group. We would also like to thank all participants — Governments, regional organizations — and private sector and non-governmental organizations for their contributions.

The negotiation process that was concluded in Interlaken in November 2002 is a major achievement in halting the fuelling of conflicts through the illegal trade of diamonds. It provides a mechanism that reflects the resolve of the international community to deal with the factors that fuel armed conflicts and stimulate the undermining or overthrowing of legitimate Governments, as well as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, mainly in the African continent.

As a producer and consumer of diamonds, Brazil attaches great significance to the fact that the negotiations resulted in the creation of a Certification Scheme that aims at reducing the role of conflict diamonds in armed conflict, while at the same time protecting the legitimate trade in diamonds, which plays an important role in economic development. We are confident that the certification scheme will help ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council mandating embargoes on the trade in conflict diamonds, thus contributing to the promotion of international peace and security. Yet, the progress made with the creation of the Certification Scheme does not change our understanding that the illegal trade in diamonds represents only a stimulus to conflict. Its deep-rooted causes must be met with equal resolve. Otherwise, our efforts will fall short of their purpose.

Brazil encourages the widest participation in the Certification Scheme. As stated in the Kimberley Process Chairman's report, the Process is an ongoing international initiative and would benefit greatly from even broader participation. Let me reaffirm the commitment of Brazil to its full implementation.

Mr. Rastam (Malaysia): My delegation would like at the outset to thank Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa for his comprehensive introductory statement, as well as for his introduction of draft resolution A/57/L.76. The draft resolution reflects the hard work that has gone into, and the progress already achieved in, the Kimberley Process. In this regard, we applaud South Africa's leadership in the Kimberley Process and support the draft resolution before the General Assembly today.

My delegation notes the significant progress that has been achieved so far in the Kimberley Process. The successful adoption, in Interlaken, Switzerland, on 5 November 2002, of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, and the decision to implement the Scheme from 1 January 2003, are testimony to the strong commitment of the international community to stem the illicit trade in rough diamonds, which continues to threaten international peace and security by fuelling armed conflict.

Malaysia has been following very closely the deliberations in Windhoek, Brussels, Moscow, Twickenham, Gaborone, Ottawa and Interlaken. Malaysia is strongly committed to the maintenance of international peace and security. We support all efforts undertaken by the international community to prevent armed conflict. In that regard, on 10 February 2003 Malaysia submitted its application to participate in the Kimberley Process. We note that the first plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process to be held since the Scheme was launched is scheduled to take place at Sandton, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 28 to 30 April 2003. We hope to participate actively in that process.

Malaysia shares the deep concern that has been expressed by other delegations concerning the role of the illicit trade in rough diamonds in fuelling armed conflict in some countries in the African continent, in particular in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This should not be allowed to go on. The countries of Africa need peace, stability and development.

Armed conflict will only retard progress and have catastrophic consequences. Malaysia is particularly alarmed about the negative impact of the illicit trade in rough diamonds, which represents only 4 per cent of the total diamond trade in the world. This illicit trade in rough diamonds should not be allowed to have such a disproportionate and devastating impact on peace and security in Africa. Diamond-financed armed conflict must be prevented at all costs. We must de-link forever armed conflict and the trade in rough diamonds.

To that end, Malaysia recognizes that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme — in tandem with the relevant Security Council resolutions, which contain sanctions relating to trade in conflict diamonds — plays an important role in effectively stopping diamond-financed armed conflict,. Malaysia also subscribes to the belief that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds will be vital in ensuring effective compliance with and implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Constantino (Angola): I would like to start by thanking the President for his initiative to include on the agenda of the General Assembly the subject of the role of diamonds in fuelling conflicts, which is of great importance.

We would also like to thank Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa, for having presented to the General Assembly the report on the Kimberley Process, pursuant to resolution 56/263.

In discussing the subject of the role of diamonds in fuelling conflicts, we are dealing not only with armed conflict, which, as we know, represents an obstacle to the progress and economic development of countries, but also with humanitarian issues and gross violations of international conventions on human rights.

The problem of conflict diamonds is one of serious international concern, and measures to address the problem should involve all parties, including producing, processing, exporting and importing countries, as well as the diamond industry.

Diamond-producing, -processing and -consuming countries have attempted to initiate stronger regulations to isolate conflict diamonds. Such measures include a global certification scheme that relies upon certificates of origin that cannot be forged.

Launched in May 2000, the Kimberley Process was initiated by several Southern African countries in response to growing international pressure to address peace and security concerns. The Kimberley Process had its origins in the decision of Southern African countries to take action to stop the flow of conflict diamonds to the markets and, at the same time, to protect the diamond industry of those countries.

As Members are aware, the Republic of Angola played a very important role in the introduction of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which should substantially reduce the likelihood of conflict diamonds playing a role in fuelling armed conflict.

We consider the Kimberley Process to be the main international initiative established to develop practical approaches to conflict diamonds, which are used by rebel movements to finance their military activities aimed at overthrowing legitimate Governments.

By adopting the international Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds based on internationally agreed standards, the international community has undertaken the most far-reaching political engagement in breaking the link between illicit transactions in

rough diamonds and armed conflict and the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The Republic of Angola strongly supports the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution to preventing trafficking in conflict diamonds and looks forward to its implementation, since we are firmly convinced that the Certification Scheme will curb the flow of rough diamonds from rebel-held conflict areas, thereby contributing substantially to peace and security efforts.

As a sponsor, therefore, Angola looks forward to the adoption of the draft resolution before us and urges all Member States to continue working to make the international Certification Scheme a reality.

Ms. Cavaliere de Nava (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomes the holding of this debate on an issue to which my country attaches singular importance, since it is part of a broader approach to the prevention and solution of conflicts and, at the same time, promotes the realization of the objectives of maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. We are especially pleased that this debate is being held in a diverse and democratic forum such as the General Assembly, in which all Member States can express themselves with regard to an issue that is of grave international concern.

Venezuela promotes a broad, comprehensive concept of peace that enables us to address all of the causes and factors related to the outbreak and development of conflicts and, at the same time, incorporates a commitment by all States to work to create economic and social conditions that enable us to eradicate those causes. Therefore — and because Venezuela agrees with a great number of countries that the illicit diamond trade has had harmful effects in promoting armed conflicts and has also delayed and hampered efforts in the quest for peace and security in the countries directly affected — our country expresses its deep satisfaction at the realization of an international initiative on behalf of peace.

Venezuela has actively followed the whole process related to the establishment of a practical, effective mechanism to combat the illicit diamond trade in conflict areas, convinced that a mechanism such as the one that has been established will become an effective monitoring instrument that will discourage the illicit diamond trade, thereby eliminating conditions that foster conflicts in affected areas and strengthening efforts and strategies aimed at resolving them.

On the basis of some of those considerations, and mindful of the great usefulness of that mechanism, Venezuela firmly supports the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, in which we have participated since 1 February this year. In that regard, it is gratifying to report that the Government of Venezuela is implementing the necessary measures for the Scheme's effective implementation. Among the most important, I should mention the issuance of a provisional certificate indicating that the rough diamonds of the shipment in question have been processed in accordance with the provisions of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

Moreover, we are making the necessary adjustments to Venezuelan legislation to include the provisions required in order to comply fully — and in accordance with our legal framework — with the Certification Scheme's minimum requirements, which will enable us definitively to implement the Scheme beginning on 1 July 2003.

As one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/57/L.76, we wish on this occasion to reaffirm my country's commitment to this joint effort while calling on States Members of the Organization which are not yet part of the Certification Scheme to participate in it, thus achieving the broadest and most effective participation possible. Likewise, we wish to express our appreciation for the commendable work of the Government of South Africa as Chair of the Kimberley Process and to reaffirm our willingness, together with other participating States, to continue to lend our efforts and our resolve to ensuring the success of this initiative, now made a reality.

Mr. Thamrin (Indonesia): It is the pleasure of my delegation to participate in this General Assembly debate on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict. Before I proceed, I should like to express our warm gratitude to the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in its capacity as Chair of the Kimberley Process. Like other Member States, we feel that South Africa has done a good job and therefore deserves the commendation and respect of this world body. In that connection, it is with great pleasure that my delegation has joined in sponsoring the draft

resolution now before the General Assembly, on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict (A/57/L.76).

It is now firmly established that there is a strong linkage between the illicit trade in rough diamonds and the fuelling of armed conflicts in Africa. Representing up to 20 per cent of the total annual world diamond trade, conflict diamonds have contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the past decade alone, as well as having engendered huge civilian displacements and the humanitarian crises inevitably resulting from them.

Indeed, the Kimberley Process began as an effort by the countries of the Southern African region to combat the distribution of these conflict diamonds on the market without prejudice to the legitimate diamond industry. Bringing them under control or eliminating them altogether will further help to ensure that Governments are able to use their national diamond resources to finance economic and social development for the welfare of their people.

Today, the Kimberley Process involves more than 47 Governments as well as the European Community, the diamond industry and civil society. It is at the forefront in establishing minimum international standards for national certification schemes related to the trade in rough diamonds. My delegation strongly aligns itself with those efforts, which are targeted at frustrating those who consider it to be in their selfish interest to inflame political conflict by using the economic power of illicit diamonds. We recall that, only last January, the Security Council adopted its resolution 1459 (2003), by which it expressed its support for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, which was adopted at the Interlaken, Switzerland, conference on 5 November 2002.

My delegation shares that view and applauds those strides of progress. We wholeheartedly welcome the Certification Scheme and the voluntary system of industry self-regulation enshrined in the Interlaken Declaration. Under the Declaration, conflict diamonds were removed from international trade beginning on 1 January 2003.

Needless to say, as important as the Kimberley Process is, even more important are broad participation in it and a functional monitoring process. Unless the Certification Scheme is carefully and closely monitored, its chances of success are rather slim. To that extent, we encourage the widest possible participation in the Certification Scheme worldwide, and we urge all States Members of the United Nations to participate in it. In effect, nations that do not participate in monitoring help rebels in extending armed conflicts, with their attendant devastating consequences for innocent civilians. In this regard, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will certainly help in the effective and consistent implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council relating to conflict diamonds, and once and for all bring them under close control.

Finally, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Government of South Africa for agreeing to chair the Kimberley Process during its first year of implementation. We proudly co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): In the view of the Chinese delegation, the Kimberley Process is closely related to the discussions on African conflicts that have taken place in the United Nations, including in the Security Council. The Process has also been endorsed by the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

The Process is highly political in nature; therefore, in addressing outstanding issues related to it, it is imperative to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States.

In this spirit, we wish to make two oral amendments to the draft resolution contained in document A/57/L.76. First, we propose that, in the seventh preambular paragraph, after the word "Recalling", the words "the Charter of the United Nations Charter and" be added. The second amendment is to the eighteenth preambular paragraph. The last part, starting from "including those producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds" should be deleted, reverting instead to the wording contained in the seventeenth preambular paragraph of last year's resolution, which reads as follows:

(*spoke in English*)

> "including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society".

(*spoke in Chinese*)

With respect to these two amendments, we have held consultations and had contacts with the majority of the sponsors. They all have indicated their agreement with the two amendments I have just proposed.

On that basis, China decided to join the consensus on this draft resolution.

Mr. Simancas (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Mexico shares the view that the creation of a mechanism for the certification of rough diamonds contributes to stability in the region and to the maintenance of international peace and security.

My delegation therefore appeals for closer communication between the Kimberley Process and the Security Council sanctions committees, especially those on Liberia and Sierra Leone. My delegation believes that, in the implementation phase of the process, efforts should be made to achieve a broader implementation of this diamond-certification mechanism by all importing and exporting States.

Finally, allow me to reiterate our appreciation to South Africa for its efforts. Mexico will participate actively in the meeting scheduled for the end of this month in Johannesburg.

The Acting President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3208 (XXIX) of 11 October 1974, I call on the Observer for the European Community.

Ms. Juul-Jørgensen (European Community): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries acceding to the European Union Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia and the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, as well as the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area Norway all align themselves with this agreement.

The linkage between the illicit trade in rough diamonds and the fuelling of armed conflicts that affect international peace and security has been well known for some years now. On various occasions the General Assembly has expressed its concern over this issue. In a number of resolutions, the Security Council has taken steps to address this sad reality, which afflicts several countries, but which is a matter pertaining to the responsibility of the international community as a whole, especially those countries trading in diamonds.

We therefore welcome the fact that several diamond trading countries gathered in the framework of the Kimberley Process to take up their responsibility as United Nations Member States and to consider how they could complement Security Council resolutions with instruments to support their implementation.

A number of European Union Member States supported the Process from the start and contributed their best efforts to its initial deliberations. The European Union as a whole jointly expressed strong support for its endeavours. As soon as consensus emerged on a draft certification scheme for international trade in rough diamonds, the European Union member States mandated the Commission to negotiate such an agreement on behalf of the European Community. That was less than two years ago.

Today the European Union is pleased to see the Kimberley Process presenting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to the United Nations as the result of those negotiations.

The European Union believes that this Certification Scheme will stem the flow of conflict diamonds to a great extent. As such, it can be an instrument at the disposal of the United Nations, ensuring, whenever necessary, the implementation of Security Council resolutions and making a contribution to conflict prevention.

The European Union hopes that the legitimate diamond industry, upon which many countries are dependent for their economic and social development, will also be protected as a consequence. That is why the European Union welcomes and supports this draft resolution.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link. I would therefore like to stress that in order for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to fulfil its promises its complete and effective implementation is necessary by all subscribing to it. We welcome its implementation and strongly encourage participants to further resolve outstanding issues. In that regard, we support the ongoing process to refine and implement the regime adopted at the Interlaken conference.

I can bring to the Assembly's attention that the European Community is a participant in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and has itself been

applying the Scheme in full since February 2003, on the basis of European Community regulation applicable in all European Union member States.

The European Union hopes that further progress can be made, at the upcoming plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process and beyond, towards the goal of making the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as effective as possible. In that respect, the European Union believes that a regular review of its implementation by participants can greatly contribute to the Certification Scheme's effectiveness and credibility, on which consumer trust and the economic prospects for diamond mining, trading and the processing countries are greatly dependent.

We are confident that the General Assembly's strong support for the Scheme, as expressed in the draft resolution, will help maintain the momentum to that end.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item. At the request of the delegation of South Africa in its capacity as Chairman of the Kimberley Process, we will postpone taking action on the draft resolution until Tuesday, 15 April.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.83

General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

83rd plenary meeting
Tuesday, 15 April 2003, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency the Honourable Bernard Dowiyogo, President of the Republic of Nauru

The President: This morning, it is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of the late President of the Republic of Nauru, His Excellency the Honourable Bernard Dowiyogo, who passed away on Sunday, 9 March 2003.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Nauru to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Nauru and to the bereaved family of His Excellency the Honourable Bernard Dowiyogo.

I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency the Honourable Bernard Dowiyogo.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: I call on the representative of the Republic of Korea, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the States members of the Asian Group, I take the floor to express our deep condolences to the bereaved family of President Bernard Dowiyogo and to the Government and the people of Nauru in their time of sorrow.

President Dowiyogo was a dedicated statesman of Nauru for more than three decades. He came to the office of the presidency nine times and steadfastly advocated the causes of Nauru. Throughout his political life, President Dowiyogo also displayed an exceptional intellect and vision on a range of issues in international affairs. With a deep and abiding belief in multilateralism and cognizant of the challenges faced by small island developing States, such as Nauru, President Dowiyogo worked to strengthen international cooperation to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

The world community will always remember President Dowiyogo's noble contributions to the betterment of all humanity.

The President: I call on the representative of Bulgaria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria): On behalf of the Eastern European Group of States Members of the United Nations, I would like to extend to the people and the Government of the Republic of Nauru our deepest and most sincere condolences for the demise of President Bernard Dowiyogo.

Since the beginning of his political career in 1973, when he was elected as a member of Parliament, until his ninth and final term as President of the Republic Nauru, the late Bernard Dowiyogo served in an exemplary manner the interests of his people and his country. The fact that, before his election to the highest

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political post in the Republic of Nauru, he was a long-term member of cabinet as Minister of Health, Minister of Justice and Minister for Island Development and Industry is evidence of his outstandingly high competence and expertise.

The late President Dowiyogo was a person of principle and stature and a politician of unswerving belief who worked relentlessly for democracy and his country. As Head of State and Government of the Republic of Nauru, Bernard Dowiyogo led the Nauru delegations to such landmark United Nations summits as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the United Nations Millenium Assembly. He joined world leaders in adopting the historic Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration Goals.

We are convinced that the political legacy of Bernard Dowiyogo, who dedicated his life to the prosperity and well-being of his people, will be cherished and built upon by future generations in Nauru.

The President: I call on the representative of Barbados, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Ms. Russell (Barbados): The Barbados delegation, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, has the honour to pay tribute to the memory of the late President Bernard Dowiyogo of the Republic of Nauru. The States members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would like to take this opportunity to express their profound sympathy to the people of Nauru on the loss of its great leader and patriot and to the family of the late President.

Even a brief review of the late President's life will attest to the fact that he was totally committed to public life and to the service of his country. He was active in public life for 32 long years and served as President of Nauru as many as nine times. His great contribution to the achievement of the independence and development of his country should not go unnoticed, while, throughout his many years of service, he played a key diplomatic role in the international affairs of his country.

The Latin American and Caribbean Group sincerely joins the international community in paying tribute to this great son and patriot of the Republic of Nauru.

The President: I call on the representative of Mauritania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Ould Deddach (Mauritania) (*spoke in French*): I have the sad privilege today, on behalf of the African Group, of conveying to the friendly delegation, Government and people of Nauru our condolences on the loss of the President of the Republic of Nauru. It is clearly a heavy burden in such circumstances to express to our friends in Nauru the extent to which the African Group in its entirety shares their sorrow.

The Republic of Nauru lost its President, the late Bernard Dowiyogo, during the course of extremely complicated heart surgery. President Dowiyogo died at the young age of 57 and had just begun his ninth and final term as President of Nauru. Obviously, having been re-elected nine times to that office, the late Bernard Dowiyogo can truly be considered a major personality in his country and beyond.

We need only recall Bernard Dowiyogo's career to note the great role he played in the political life of his country and on the international scene. Having studied law in Australia and in his own country, Bernard Dowiyogo launched his political career by being elected to Parliament in 1971 for the district which he represented continuously for 32 years, right up to his death. He was a member of several Governments in Nauru and occupied a variety of important ministerial posts. He was elected President for the first time in 1976, at the age of 30, thereby becoming Nauru's youngest President ever. Bernard Dowiyogo was a man of principle and conviction, committed to human rights and to protecting the environment. He was a man of law and order who won the respect of all in Nauru and abroad.

For those who have lost him — his wife, his eight children and his 29 grandchildren — I would recall Massillon's beautiful funeral oration for Louis XIV. With respect to one who called himself Louis the Great, the orator said what the muezzin, in his incomparable voice, reminds us Muslims five times a day: God alone is great, my brothers. God alone is great; every one else is mortal.

The President: I call on the representative of Andorra, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Ms. Pià Comella (Andorra) (*spoke in French*): We are meeting today under very sad circumstances. It is my honour to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Nauru.

The late President Dowiyogo served his country for many years, guiding it with passion towards membership into the United Nations community — an event that will clearly be marked as a milestone in Nauru's history. We pay tribute to him and commend his memory.

We share the pain of the people of Nauru on the sudden passing of their President. The delegations of the Group of Western European and other States stand by the people of Nauru and assure them of their cooperation.

The President: I call on the representative of the United States, the host country.

Mr. Siv (United States of America): The United States, as host country, salutes the great life of President Dowiyogo. His passing, last month, was a loss not only to the people of Nauru but also the wider Pacific community, including the United States. For three decades, President Dowiyogo was a towering figure in Nauru's public life. He was well known in Washington and was admired for his calm determination to speak his mind in the service of his countrymen.

When he took office in January — one of his many terms as President — there were only three months left before the next elections. One might have thought that an ordinary politician would have stayed at home building alliances in advance of his next run for office. But President Dowiyogo was no ordinary politician; he was a statesman. He knew the importance of travelling abroad to represent his country at the highest level in order to advance the interests of his people. He led Nauru's delegations to the Earth Summit and to the Millennium Assembly.

In March, despite delicate health, he once again led a delegation of top officials, this time to Washington, for a series of important talks. In those talks President Dowiyogo made a bold decision to counter money laundering and the purchase of passports, limiting the vulnerability of his nation to international crimes. Those were moves for which the United States and the entire international community owe a debt of thanks. They mark a final display of the President's trademark courage and statesmanship.

The United States and the American people feel a special loss at the passing of President Dowiyogo, both because he ended his life on our soil and because of his long-standing friendship with my country. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family, to our colleague Ambassador Clodumar here in New York and to all the people of Nauru.

The President: I call on the representative of Nauru.

Mr. Clodumar (Nauru): It is an honour and a privilege for me to deliver this statement in tribute to the life and leadership of the late President Bernard Dowiyogo of the People of Nauru, for and on behalf of the Government and the people of Nauru.

At the outset, let me thank you, Mr. President, for arranging this special event this morning as part of a United Nations mark of respect for our fallen leader, and for the kind words you have spoken. I also wish to thank each of the Chairpersons of the five regional groups and the representative of the host country for their kind words. I would also like to take this opportunity to express the deepest appreciation of my Government and of the family of the late President Bernard Dowiyogo to all the Member States that sent letters of condolence or signed the condolence book at the Mission — or both — as well as to the many institutions and personal friends of Nauru who did likewise. Those messages have been conveyed to the Government and to the family of the late President Bernard Dowiyogo, as appropriate. I personally delivered the condolence book to the family of the President while I was in Nauru for the funeral.

Bernard Dowiyogo served his country and the people of Nauru for over 30 years, until his death on 9 March 2003 in Washington, D.C., following major heart surgery five days earlier. He was 57 years old. In the 30 years of his public life he was elected President of Nauru nine times, beginning in 1976 at the age of 30. His longest term as President was from December 1989 to December 1995, having been elected President following general elections in December 1989 and November 1992. I had the privilege of being a minister in his Government during that period, and therefore have a close and personal understanding of the

aspirations he had for his country and for the people of Nauru.

It is not easy to take the measure of Bernard Dowiyogo's contribution to the global community — first because of the fact that Nauru is not well known to the international audience and, secondly, because Nauru's politics have had negligible influence in the international arena. However, if one analyses either periods during which Bernard Dowiyogo held the presidency of Nauru or those during which he held a ministerial portfolio, one realizes that they coincided with some important United Nations events that required the political will of leaders to push through what were then tough political decisions. On most of those occasions Nauru was there to be counted on. I will cite just a few instances for the record: the London Convention against the dumping of nuclear waste into the oceans; the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Barbados Plan of Action; the Millennium Declaration Goals; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Therefore, in our eyes, he ranks among the greatest statesmen of the twentieth century, because of his wisdom and his courage in standing up for the things that he believed would make the planet a safer and more equitable place for future generations of mankind.

In the Oceania region Bernard Dowiyogo is better known for his tenacious stance against French nuclear testing in French Polynesia, which at one point resulted in the breaking off of diplomatic ties between Nauru and France; against the Marshall Islands proposal to accept the storage of nuclear waste in islets within its territories; and against the shipment of nuclear waste on ships traversing the Pacific Ocean from Europe to Japan.

On the issue of human rights and the right of peoples to self-determination Bernard Dowiyogo was forthright in his stance against the abuse of citizens committed by those in authority. One will recall the statement he made during the Millennium Assembly with regard to the people of Papua to self-determination and with regard to the violation of the human rights of the Papuan people at the hands of the Indonesian junta.

On the home front, we in Nauru are also aware of his many contributions to the nation. During his longest term as President, he undertook the biggest infrastructure development programme of any Nauruan Government to date, which proved to be a timely decision, for soon thereafter the economy took a downturn.

His mettle was tested during the proceedings against Australia in the International Court of Justice for damages arising from breach of trust while Nauru was under a League of Nations mandate and, after the Second World War, under the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. The new Dowiyogo Government was placed under intense pressure by Australia to withdraw the case, but he refused to do so. Nauru was successful at the first stage of the proceedings, but accepted Australia's request to settle the matter out of court.

When the economy of Nauru continued to spiral downward in the mid-1990s, Bernard Dowiyogo had the courage and political will to seek the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help his Government restructure the imbalances in the Nauruan economy that were affecting the standard of living and the ability of the Government to meet its internal and external obligations. He knew that the menu that the ADB would prescribe would be politically unpopular, but this did not discourage him from implementing the programme.

As it turned out, he lost the presidency following the general election in 1995, and in ensuing years he regained and lost the presidency three times. Bernard Dowiyogo regained the presidency for the ninth and last time in January 2003. Despite his declining health, he fought hard to take charge of the Government, because he realized that the future of Nauru would depend on a leader who was willing to make hard decisions that might not be popular with his parliamentary colleagues or the electors. That was his aspiration.

Bernard Dowiyogo was a consummate politician and a person of great principle. He never wavered in his belief in democracy and the rule of law. When his doctor spoke to him about surgery, he told him that he came to the United Nations to take part in very important discussions with the United States Government, and he made it very clear that he had no intention of allowing any medical intervention until he had completed what he came to do.

He was true to what he told his wife, Christina, when he became President in 1976: that his priorities were first and foremost the Government and the nation, then his colleagues and friends, and then his family, in that order. This is the measure of the man. The late President Bernard Dowiyogo was the first President to die in office. May his soul rest in peace.

Agenda item 117 ***(continued)***

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (Article 19 of the Charter) (A/57/705/Add.10)

The President: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/57/705/Add.10, by which the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that, since the issuance of its communications contained in document A/57/705 and addenda 1 to 9, Uzbekistan has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in the document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 ***(continued)***

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

The President: Members will recall that, at its 79th plenary meeting on 20 December 2002, the General Assembly took note of the appointment by its President of the Congo, France, India, Japan, the Russian Federation and Zambia as members of the Committee on Conferences for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 2003.

Members will further recall that there remains one seat to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

After consultations with the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I have appointed Bolivia as a member of the Committee on Conferences for a term of office beginning on 15 April 2003 and ending on 31 December 2005.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of this appointment?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 ***(continued)***

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (A/57/110)

The President: I invite the Assembly to turn its attention to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/57/110 relating to the confirmation of the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

In paragraph 22 of part B of its resolution 1240 (XIII) of 14 October 1958 on the establishment of the Special Fund, the General Assembly provided that the Secretary-General, after having consulted the Governing Council of the Special Fund, would appoint the Managing Director, subject to confirmation by the Assembly. This procedure has been construed as applying also to the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

By its decision 53/323 of 23 April 1999, the General Assembly confirmed the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Mark Malloch Brown as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 July 1999.

Following consultations with members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the Secretary-General now requests the General Assembly to confirm the appointment of Mr. Mark Malloch Brown as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for a further four-year term of office beginning on 1 July 2003.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves this proposal?

It was so decided.

Mr. Bennouna (Morocco): It is for me a great pleasure to congratulate, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Mr. Malloch Brown on his appointment for a second term as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

I would like to express the full satisfaction of the G-77 and China at his confirmation by the Secretary-General in this very important post and to assure Mr. Malloch Brown of our full support and friendship.

Over the past four years, Mr. Malloch Brown has been fully dedicated to development goals, sharing with the Group of 77 the same concerns and challenges. This period has been marked by a real transformation in development and by a shared vision and a commitment to work together with the United Nations system in seeking our common goals in the area of development.

Our Group continues to believe in the crucial role that the UNDP is playing to help developing countries to reach their national development policy objectives.

In that regard, the Group stands ready to work together with the Administrator for the implementation of our common development goals by translating them into operational activities and concrete actions in the field. The Group of 77 is convinced that the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, will help set out the terms of a world in which globalization is not only driven by the interests of the strong but is also managed for the benefit of the weak.

That constitutes the framework in which the Group of 77 and China hope to work with Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, over the next four years. Our objective in this period should be the implementation of what we have agreed on in the major United Nations conferences and summits to help the poor in the struggle against poverty. That is a challenge that we have to face hand in hand with Mr. Mark Malloch Brown. I thank him very much, and I wish the best for him and his family.

Ms. Pià Comella (Andorra): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, I would like to congratulate Mr. Mark Malloch Brown on his reappointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). We are convinced that under his leadership, the work of the UNDP, as well as coordination among funds and programmes, will continue to be enhanced. Finally, I wish to reiterate our full support and cooperation to Mr. Brown and to wish him success in his renewed role as Administrator.

Mr. Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the States members of the Asian Group, it is a great pleasure for me to extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Mark Malloch Brown on his appointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a second term, commencing 1 July 2003. For its part, the Asian Group will continue to extend its full cooperation and support to him in the discharge of his responsibilities.

Mr. Malloch Brown's reappointment is a fitting tribute to his commitment to promoting development globally and reflects the confidence of Member States in his ability to guide the UNDP at this crucial juncture in overall United Nations reform. In that respect, Mr. Malloch Brown has provided invaluable leadership in making the UNDP a service- and results-oriented organization, especially by effectively providing advice and expertise where it is needed most. In particular, we commend his initiative of utilizing information technology to the fullest extent in the service of development.

Given that the Millennium Development Goals are central to the global development agenda, the focus of the work of the UNDP is now to translate the vision into action. We remain convinced that Mr. Malloch Brown's extended tenure will facilitate the United Nations strategy to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to assist countries all over the world in achieving their development targets.

The States members of the Asian Group have enjoyed a close and cooperative working relationship with the UNDP. In fact, that dynamic relationship has been strengthened over the years despite the evolving changes and budgetary constraints. The Asian Group acknowledges the UNDP's constructive endeavours in the region, in particular in such areas as poverty reduction, good governance, HIV/AIDS and gender equality. We particularly commend the UNDP's role under the leadership of Mr. Malloch Brown in formulating and implementing programmes for the recovery and reconstruction of Afghanistan. We look forward to seeing an ever-increasing role and

contribution of the UNDP under the outstanding leadership of Mr. Malloch Brown in the years to come.

Mr. Laurin (Canada): In addition to associating Canada fully with the statement made by the representative of Andorra, we wish to make a few additional remarks with respect to this very important appointment. Canada is very pleased to support the appointment of Mr. Mark Malloch Brown as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a further four years.

We recall the challenges Mr. Malloch Brown took up when he joined in 1999. Under his leadership, the UNDP has effected a transformation that has been remarkable in its speed and breadth. That transformation has seen the introduction of a focus on governance and its programmes, as well as a strong emphasis on results and — particularly difficult — on demonstrating results. The transformation has encompassed dimensions of strategic reorientation, downsizing and staff renewal, all the while maintaining a determined focus on poverty reduction and sustainable human development.

Canada has enjoyed a strong working partnership with Mr. Malloch Brown during the first four years, and we look forward to continuing in that vein. Canada wishes to extend its sincere congratulations to Mr. Malloch Brown on this occasion.

Mr. Wardono (Indonesia): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to Mr. Mark Malloch Brown upon his confirmation of his appointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That confirmation reflects his capable leadership in fulfilling United Nations operational activities for development, which are critically needed to achieve our goals for sustainable development.

We live in a world that requires a sustained and nuanced commitment to socio-economic development — an integrated approach that both reflects an understanding of material needs, culture and history, and takes account of the complicated issues that face developing countries today. Mr. Malloch Brown has amply shown such a commitment. We are fully confident that he will guide the UNDP well during the years to come. The challenge for the United Nations over the next decade and, very likely, the next century, is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Under the leadership of Mr. Malloch Brown, UNDP efforts in formulating and articulating those goals, which place development in its global context, are already being appreciated.

Mr. Malloch Brown serves UNDP in particular, and the United Nations more broadly, by placing those goals at the forefront of his agenda. UNDP's efforts to bring together policy experts, scholars and fundraisers to work towards common goals and to advocate publicly for their being seen as global concerns have placed development efforts in a new light in the eyes of the world.

We can struggle together with how to keep our efforts streamlined without losing the human touch; how to reduce poverty and eliminate HIV/AIDS without being swamped in onerous deliberation; and how to manage a global network of country offices and policy projects without forgetting the realities of life of people in need. UNDP's leadership role in the Millennium Campaign and the Millennium Project have shown the world its innovation and commitment. We are confident that we have seen just the beginning. We look forward to many years of mutual learning, productive partnership and, we trust, better and more humane living conditions for people in all parts of the world.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): I would like to add Pakistan's voice to those of the Ambassador of Morocco, as the Chairman of the Group of 77, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, as the Chairman of the Asian Group.

I would like to welcome the reappointment of Mark Malloch Brown as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), knowing full well his great qualities of energy, effervescence and effectiveness, which have transformed UNDP into a central player on the international economic scene. We value the comprehensive role which UNDP, under Mark Malloch Brown, is playing in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals. We value no less the contributions which UNDP and Mark Malloch Brown have made to thinking with regard to the situation in Afghanistan and the region as a whole, and to the promotion of cooperation in the context of regional development in that crucial part of the world — inhabited by Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and other countries — to which Mr. Malloch Brown has given so much attention and time.

We heartily welcome his reappointment, and I would like to extend my felicitations to him.

Mr. Ould Deddach (Mauritania) (*spoke in French*): It is my honour to congratulate, on behalf of the African Group, Mr. Mark Malloch Brown on his reappointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I should like to add that we of course associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group greatly appreciates the efforts made by Mr. Mark Malloch Brown in the service of development and of UNDP during his previous term of office. We have noted the new impetus given to the work of UNDP and the major improvements to the new development policies. Those efforts lead us to believe that we can expect the work done by that body to further development and combat poverty to be intensified during Mr. Malloch Brown's coming term. Our group is ready to make a full contribution, and to cooperate effectively with Mr. Malloch Brown, to whom we wish every success in carrying out his mission.

The President: I should like to join all previous speakers in congratulating Mark Malloch Brown on his appointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a further four-year term. I an personally very pleased that we have just approved his reappointment, because I believe that he has done an outstanding job during his first term. Under his leadership, UNDP has completed a process of reform and revitalization in a timely and very effective manner and, as a result, has established itself in a pivotal role within the United Nations development system.

When he took up office in 1999, UNDP was in a difficult situation. Core resources had fallen to an all-time low of $630 million, and there were expectations that that drop would continue. In four short years the funding situation has been turned around and confidence in the organization has increased dramatically. The core budget is growing, and so is UNDP's contribution to world development. Confidence in the organization has grown largely because of Mark Malloch Brown's bold reforms. From a dispersed organization that funded a variety of areas of technical assistance, UNDP has been turned into a networked, practice-based and results-oriented organization. The speed with which UNDP has responded to post-conflict situations, such as Afghanistan and East Timor, and to new developmental challenges in Africa and elsewhere, reflect the new agility and relevance of the organization.

Mark Malloch Brown has worked hard to bring the United Nations development perspective, and that of the Bretton Woods institutions, much closer. He relentlessly built partnerships between UNDP and the Bretton Woods institutions that have increased understanding of the United Nations in Washington and of the Bretton Woods perspective here in New York. The growing support in the United Nations for Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and the rallying of the Bretton Woods institutions around the Millennium Development Goals are, to a certain extent, his achievements. He has also steadily fostered greater coherence of United Nations development operations through his chairmanship of the United Nations Development Group and through the resident coordinator system.

Today, if UNDP is a strong voice for the United Nations in development and if it has become an efficient, results-driven and increasingly better-funded organization, it is to Mark Malloch Brown's credit. His talented, highly motivated staff shares with him the credit for that turnaround.

Personally, I have had the opportunity to meet Mark Malloch Brown several times, on a variety of occasions. First, I met him shortly after he had assumed the post of Administrator of UNDP. At that time, in an attempt to reverse the negative trend in financing, he had initiated a ministerial meeting that I had the honour to chair as President of the UNDP Executive Board in 2000. I also met with him in Monterrey at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, where he was actively participating and vigorously pushing forward the development agenda and partnerships. On those and other occasions, I have always witnessed a determined, eloquent and dedicated advocate of development and a firm supporter of development cooperation. I feel privileged to have met him.

I wish Mark Malloch Brown a successful term in the UNDP. On behalf of the entire General Assembly, I should like once again to congratulate him on his appointment.

We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 17.

Ms. Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Dates of the two-day High-Level Dialogue on financing for development

The Acting President: Before turning to the next item, I should like to make an announcement concerning the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Members will recall that, in operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 57/250 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly agreed to hold the High-Level Dialogue on financing for development at the end of October 2003 on a specific date to be determined by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with relevant stakeholders, so as to facilitate ministerial participation and the participation of heads of international financial and trade institutions and of other relevant organizations. In paragraph 6, the General Assembly also decided that the duration of the High-Level Dialogue would be two days.

Members will also recall that, in paragraph 7, the General Assembly also decided to hold, prior to the High-Level Dialogue, one day of informal hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector accredited to the Dialogue.

In the course of the necessary consultations that the President of the General Assembly has held, no objection has been raised to the dates he has proposed: 29 and 30 October 2003 for the High-Level Dialogue and 28 October 2003 for the one day of informal hearings. The dates of 29 and 30 October 2003 are therefore earmarked for the High-Level Dialogue on financing for development and the date of 28 October for the one day of informal hearings.

Agenda item 27 (*continued*)

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Draft resolution (A/57/L.76/Rev.1)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on this item at its 82nd plenary meeting, on Friday, 11 April 2003.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/57/L.76/Rev.1.

The Assembly will take a decision on draft resolution A/57/L.76/Rev.1, entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts". I should like to announce that, since the introduction of draft resolution A/57/L.76/Rev.1, the following countries have become sponsors: Luxembourg and Madagascar.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/57/L.76/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/57/L.76/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 57/302).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 27?

It was so decided.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 17 (j), 111, 112, 116, 117, 118, 122 and 123.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Haile Selassie Getachew of Ethiopia, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Getachew (Ethiopia), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee on its work during the first part of its resumed session, held from 3 to 28 March 2003 on items 17 (j), 111, 112, 116, 117, 118, 122 and 123. During the resumed session, the Fifth Committee held seven formal meetings and numerous informal meetings.

The recommendations of the Fifth Committee under those agenda items are as follows.

Concerning agenda item 17 (j), "Appointment to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee", in paragraph 4 of its report contained in document A/57/610/Add.1, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Mustafizur Rahman of Bangladesh

as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on 15 April 2003 and ending on 31 December 2004.

In paragraph 5 of its report contained in document A/57/648/Add.1 on item 111, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Action taken on certain items", which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

In paragraph 9 of its report in document A/57/649/Add.1 on item 112, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003", the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions. Draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration", and draft resolution II, entitled "Information and communication technology strategy", were both adopted by the Committee without a vote.

In paragraph 7 of its report contained in document A/57/651/Add.1 on item 116, entitled "Pattern of conferences," the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences," which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on item 118, entitled "Human resources management", is contained in document A/57/771. In paragraph 8 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Human resources management", which the Committee adopted without a vote.

In paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/57/429/Add.1 on item 117, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

In paragraph 10 of its report contained in document A/57/604/Add.1 on item 122, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services", the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions. Draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services", and draft resolution II, entitled "Investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa", were both adopted by the Committee without a vote.

With regard to item 123, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", in paragraph 7 of its report contained in document A/57/768 the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Administration of justice in the Secretariat", which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Before concluding, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all representatives for their cooperation and the members of the Secretariat for their valuable contributions and of Conference Services for their dedication, which enabled us once again to conclude the first part of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee on schedule.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations

of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

I therefore hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 111 (*continued*)

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/648/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Action taken on certain items".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 57/556).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 111.

Agenda item 112 (*continued*)

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/649/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 57/303).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Information and communication technology strategy".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 57/304).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 112.

Agenda item 116 (*continued*)

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/651/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 57/283 B).

The Acting President: I give the floor to the representative of Mexico, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Ascencio (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico has gone along with the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/57/651/Add.1 because we believe that it contains valuable elements that will help to achieve the objective of the effective use of resources available to the United Nations. My delegation has asked to take the floor solely to state for the record its interpretation of operative paragraph 3 of part B, section III. As can be seen in this paragraph, the proposal to integrate the functions of the technical servicing secretariats of the Fifth and Sixth

Committees of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services has not been authorized and will continue to be considered in the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2005-2005. My delegation still has some doubts about the usefulness of such an integration.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 116.

Agenda item 117 ***(continued)***

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/429/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 57/4 C).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117.

Agenda item 118 ***(continued)***

Human resources management

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/771)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 57/305).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 118.

Agenda item 122 ***(continued)***

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/604/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 57/287 C).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 57/306).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 122.

Agenda item 123 ***(continued)***

Administration of justice at the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/768)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled "Administration of justice in the Secretariat". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 57/307).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 123.

Agenda item 17 ***(continued)***

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(j) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/610/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on 15 April 2003 and ending on 31 December 2004.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to appoint this person?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 17.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.84

General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

84th plenary meeting
Thursday, 1 May 2003, 10.05 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/57/705/Add.11)

The Acting President: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/57/705/Add.11, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communications contained in documents A/57/705 and addenda 1 to 10, Chad has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in this document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 16 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Note by the Secretary-General (A/57/428/Add.2)

The Acting President: In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the Assembly elects the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination upon their nomination by the Economic and Social Council.

Members will recall that, at its 43rd plenary meeting, held on 4 November 2002, the General Assembly elected 19 members to the Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2003. Members will also recall that there remained one vacancy to be filled from among the Western European and other States.

As indicated in document A/57/428/Add.2, the Economic and Social Council has nominated Canada to fill the remaining vacancy from among the Western European and other States. The term of office would begin on the date of election and would expire on 31 December 2005.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, all elections should be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. However, I should like to recall paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, whereby the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard, unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election.

In the absence of such a request, may I take it that the Assembly decides to proceed to the election on that basis?

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03-34269 (E)

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I therefore take it that the Assembly wishes to declare Canada elected a member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a term of office beginning on 1 May 2003 and expiring on 31 December 2005?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I congratulate Canada on its election as a member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 16.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.85

General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

85th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 13 May 2003, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Pacari Vega (Ecuador), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 109 (*continued*)

Human rights questions

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee (A/57/806)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I request the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Ms. Oksana Boiko of Ukraine, to introduce the report of the Third Committee.

Ms. Boiko (Ukraine), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to introduce for consideration by the General Assembly the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 109 (b), entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" (A/57/806).

In paragraph 10 of the report, the Third Committee recommends the adoption of a draft resolution.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Third Committee that is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same

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manner as was done in the Third Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

I call on the representative of the United States of America in explanation of position before the taking of the decision.

Mr. Twining (United States of America): The United States would like to make a very brief explanation of position.

The United States remains committed to the establishment of a credible tribunal, and supports the substance of the draft resolution before the Assembly; but it will dissociate itself due to concerns about the timing. The United States believes it would have been better to delay consideration of this draft resolution until after the Cambodian National Assembly elections in July.

At the same time, the United States acknowledges the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Government of Cambodia to reach agreement on the establishment of an extraordinary chamber with international assistance to bring to justice senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge and others who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed. We take note of the commitment shown by a number of nations to establish a credible Khmer Rouge tribunal, especially the original sponsors of the draft resolution — Japan and France — as well as Australia, in leading the Friends.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Khmer Rouge trials", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 57/228 B).

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on the representative of Japan.

Mr. Haraguchi (Japan): As one of the co-sponsors of the resolution just adopted, I should like to express our gratitude to all Member States for their understanding and support for its adoption without a vote. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Hans Corell and his team for their efforts to achieve the agreement between the Secretariat and the Cambodian Government.

We are now definitely one step closer to bringing to justice those most responsible for one of the worst crimes against humanity of the twentieth century. The trials will provide us with an opportunity to help the Cambodian people close that tragic chapter of their history and build a free, accountable and stable society, which in turn will enhance the stability of Indo-China and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. It is also our hope that the Extraordinary Chambers, assisted by the United Nations, will strengthen Cambodia's judicial system, promoting the rule of law and bringing to an end an atmosphere of impunity.

We believe that it is incumbent upon the international community to make the trials a success. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appeal to all Member States to provide assistance, including financial and personnel support, to the Extraordinary Chambers so that they may begin to function promptly and smoothly.

I would also like to stress to Cambodia that, now that the General Assembly has decided to respond positively through the adoption of this resolution to its appeal for cooperation, it is that country's solemn responsibility to take all necessary measures, including prompt ratification of the agreement, to ensure that the Extraordinary Chambers will be able to achieve their objectives to the full.

In conclusion, let me stress once again that the success of the process leading to credible trials will depend on the efforts and commitment of the parties concerned, together with the understanding and cooperation of all Member States. Japan will continue to cooperate with the Secretariat and the Cambodian Government for the early establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 109.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.86

General Assembly

Official Records

Fifty-seventh session

86th plenary meeting
Thursday, 22 May 2003, 10.05 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Pfanzelter (Austria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of sympathy to the Governments and peoples of Sri Lanka and Algeria in connection with the recent flooding and earthquake

The Acting President: Before turning to the items on our agenda, I should like, on behalf of all the members of the General Assembly, to extend our deepest sympathy to the Governments and peoples of Sri Lanka and Algeria for the tragic loss of life and the extensive material damage that have resulted from the recent flooding in Sri Lanka and from the earthquake in Algeria. May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any requests from Sri Lanka and Algeria for assistance in their present plights and to any appeal for aid.

Agenda item 18 ***(continued)***

Election of judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Letter from the Secretary-General (A/57/790)

Letter from the President of the Security Council (A/57/814)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 18. In this connection, I wish to refer to the letter from the Secretary-General dated 16 April 2003, contained in document A/57/790 and to which is annexed a letter dated 26 March 2003 from the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In her letter, the President of the International Criminal Tribunal requests that the terms of office of both Judge Pavel Dolenc and Judge Yakov Arkadyevich Ostrovsky be extended so that they might finish the *Cyangugu* case, that is, for an additional nine months. She also requests that the term of office of Judge Winston Churchill Matanzima Maqutu be extended so that he might finish the *Kajelijeli*, *Kamuhanda* and *Butare* cases, that is, for a total of two years and seven months. She further requests that her own term of office be extended so that she might finish the *Media* case, that is, for an additional seven months.

In a letter dated 19 May 2003 addressed to the President of the General Assembly and contained in document A/57/814, the President of the Security Council transmits the text of Council resolution 1482 (2003) of 19 May 2003, whereby the Council, inter alia:

"1. *Decides* in response to the request by the Secretary-General that:

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03-36776 (E)

"(a) Judge Dolenc, once replaced as a member of the Tribunal, finish the *Cyangugu* case which he has begun before expiry of his term of office;

"(b) Judge Maqutu, once replaced as a member of the Tribunal, finish the *Kajelijeli* and *Kamuhanda* cases which he has begun before expiry of his term of office;

"(c) Notwithstanding Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Tribunal and on an exceptional basis, Judge Ostrovsky, once replaced as a member of the Tribunal, finish the *Cyangugu* case which he has begun before the expiry of his term of office;

"(d) Judge Pillay, once replaced as a member of the Tribunal, finish the *Media* case which she has begun before expiry of her term of office;

"2. *Takes note* in this regard of the intention of the Tribunal to finish the *Cyangugu* case before the end of February 2004 and the *Kajelijeli*, *Kamuhanda* and *Media* cases before the end of December 2003".

I now call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Kelley: I would like to inform members that, should the General Assembly decide to extend the term of office of Judges Pillay and Maqutu to 31 December 2003 and Judges Dolenc and Ostrovsky to 29 February 2004, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1482 (2003), additional costs provisionally estimated at $1,281,500 would arise. It is anticipated that of that amount the cost pertaining to the year 2003, estimated at $975,470, could be met within the appropriations for 2002-2003, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/248 B. The remainder for the year 2004, in the amount of $306,030, would be reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in the context of the proposed budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for 2004-2005.

The Acting President: If there is no objection, I propose that the Assembly decide to endorse those recommendations of the Secretary-General that were endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1482 (2003) of 19 May 2003.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

Agenda item 42 (*continued*)

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Draft resolution (A/57/L.78)

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/57/L.78. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/57/L.78, entitled "High-level plenary meetings devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/57/L.78?

Draft resolution A/57/L.78 was adopted (resolution 57/308).

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly and its President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Manalo of the Philippines for having so ably conducted the negotiations on the resolution just adopted.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 42.

Agenda item 169

Global road safety crisis

Draft resolution (A/57/L.77)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Oman to introduce draft resolution A/57/L.77.

Mr. Al-Hinai (Oman): At the outset, my delegation would like to join the Acting President in expressing sincere condolences to the Governments and the peoples of Algeria and Sri Lanka for the tragic loss of life in the flooding in Sri Lanka and the earthquake in Algeria.

As I stand before the Assembly, somewhere in the world, in countries represented here, road accidents are

taking place. A number of people are getting killed, and an even greater number of people are getting injured, some of whom will go on to have life-long disabilities. Globally, road traffic accidents cause 1.2 million deaths and injure 10 to 15 million people every year. It is projected that by 2020 road traffic injuries will account for about 2.3 million deaths worldwide, with more than 90 per cent of those deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 1998 road traffic crashes accounted for 2.8 per cent of all global deaths, and ranked ninth among the leading causes of disease burden. By the year 2020, road traffic injuries could take third place in the ranking of disease burden. The annual cost of road traffic accidents is a staggering $500 billion, with Africa alone bearing one fifth of that cost, funds badly needed for development projects.

Yet, the issue of road traffic safety is not significantly on the international public policy agenda at all. The leadership of the international community largely ignores road safety. Take, for example, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which was held at Johannesburg last September. The Plan of Implementation adopted at the Summit included a number of specific goals and targets related to the environmental impact of transport. But the Plan does not specifically mention road safety even once. The thousands of deaths occurring daily around the world do not receive the same media attention as, say, a single aircraft crash with a loss of about 200 lives. Given the expected increase in the level of motor vehicle use and the resulting growth in road traffic deaths and injuries, action to reduce this dramatic rise in casualties should now be a significant priority for the international community.

An excellent start has been made with the decision of the General Assembly to include an item on road safety on the agenda of the fifty-seventh session. The General Assembly will, for the very first time, discuss road safety. Another welcome development is the decision of the World Health Organization to dedicate World Health Day in 2004 to the theme of safer roads. There is still much more that needs to be done to raise awareness of the issue of road safety and to develop prevention strategies based on effective approaches to road safety management.

Valuable work on road safety is being undertaken by WHO, the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Global Road Safety Partnership, the Bone and Joint Decade and the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, just to name a few. What is lacking, unfortunately, is coordination between them. Work undertaken by United Nations agencies lacks defined goals set at the political level by the international community. That lack of a clearly established mandate prevents the development of a coherent strategy for road safety management. The sponsors of the draft resolution before the Assembly this morning therefore believe that there is an urgent need for a new initiative that can pull together the various efforts of different agencies and provide a single focal point for global road safety.

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/57/L.77, entitled "Global road safety crisis", on behalf of the following other sponsors: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

The preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution recognize the magnitude of the problem and its contributing factors. In its operative part, paragraph 4 will request the Secretary-General to submit a report containing the views expressed by Member States and United Nations agencies that will form the basis for discussion during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

I commend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/57/L.77. By adopting it, we would be starting, in small way, to move towards making our roads safe for ourselves and for generations to come.

The Acting President: I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that Australia and Costa Rica have become sponsors of draft resolution A/57/L.77.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/57/L.77. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/57/L.77 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/57/L.77 was adopted (resolution 57/309).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 169?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.87

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

87th plenary meeting
Thursday, 29 May 2003, 10.10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 10 (*continued*)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 21 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/57/816)

The President: I wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the letter dated 21 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to me, which is contained in document A/57/816. In his letter, the Secretary-General makes reference to his letter of 18 October 2002, also addressed to me, in which he informed me of his decision to donate his share of the Nobel Peace Prize award for the purpose of establishing a United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund to support the education of the children of United Nations staff members who have given their lives in the service of peace. The Secretary-General sought my concurrence with his proposal that the Organization's share be used in the same way.

The Secretary-General also makes reference to my letter of 27 March 2003 addressed to him, in which I indicated that I had already, in my personal capacity, fully endorsed his proposal and that I had conducted consultations on the matter with members of the General Committee of the General Assembly. I also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a brief formal report for submission to the General Assembly for its consideration. The Secretary-General's report is annexed to document A/57/816.

In his report, the Secretary-General states that the purpose of the report is to seek the concurrence of the General Assembly regarding the disposition of the United Nations portion of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded in 2001, in two equal parts — to the United Nations as such, and to its Secretary-General — for our work for a more peaceful world. As the Assembly knows, the Nobel Peace Prize comes with a financial award of approximately $1 million.

The Secretary-General firmly believes that the dedicated staff of the Organization has made the United Nations worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize and that it would be appropriate to use the entire award for those who have made the greatest sacrifice by giving their lives for the cause of peace.

To that effect, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund for the receipt and administration of the proceeds of the Nobel Peace Prize. The purpose of the Fund would be to provide financial assistance for the education of children of United Nations civilian personnel who have been killed in the line of duty in the service of peace. The Fund, which would function as a special account under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, could also receive and administer further contributions that are made for the same purpose.

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03-37497 (E)

The Secretary-General hopes that the General Assembly will concur with his proposal that the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund receive the full amount of the Nobel Peace Prize award.

If there is no objection, may I take it that the General Assembly decides that the United Nations portion of the Nobel Peace Prize award be donated to the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund?

It was so decided.

The President: I should like to take this opportunity to express my deep personal satisfaction at the decision just taken by the General Assembly. When I learned last October about the Secretary-General's proposal that the United Nations portion of the Nobel Peace Prize award be donated to the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund, I — as I have just said — endorsed it in my personal capacity on the occasion of United Nations Staff Day. Later, I conducted consultations on the matter with members of the General Committee with the aim of bringing the matter to the attention of the Assembly.

Today's decision concurs with the firm belief of the Secretary-General that the dedicated staff of the Organization help to make the United Nations worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize, and that it is completely appropriate to use the entire award for those who have made the greatest sacrifice by giving their lives for the cause of peace. It is my strong belief that the establishment of this Fund will provide much-needed financial assistance for the education of children of United Nations civilian personnel who have been killed in the line of duty. Their parents gave their lives in the service of peace. The Fund will help the children of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 10.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to confirm that, on Friday, 6 June 2003 at 10 a.m., the General Assembly will hold a plenary meeting to elect the President of the Assembly for its fifty-eighth session, followed by consecutive meetings of the six Main Committees to elect their Chairpersons, which will be immediately followed by another plenary meeting of the General Assembly to elect the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

I should also like to make an announcement concerning the general debate of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The first list of speakers will be faxed to all Missions tomorrow, 30 May. And I should like to remind representatives that, in accordance with the practice of recent sessions of the General Assembly, a voluntary 15-minute time limit should be observed during the general debate. The list of speakers was prepared on the basis of that time limit. To help speakers in the general debate to respect the time limit, a mechanism will be installed at the rostrum. Representatives may wish to take the time limit into account in their advice to their capitals as their respective statements are being drafted.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.